Human elements in ayurvedic medicines

657. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA:: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenrment have found any human elements in the ayurvedic products recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had ordered any enquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the recommendations received by Government; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Recently an Hon'ble Member of Parliament brought a case of alleged use of animal parts and also some parts of human skull in two medicines made by a pharmacy in Uttaranchal to the notice of the Department. The matter was referred to the Government of Uttaranchal for further inquiry and necessary action under the law. At the same time the two medicines provided by the Hon'ble MP were got tested by reputed laboratories in the country. Regarding one of the medicines one of the laboratories has confirmed presence of DNA of human species but the other laboratory has not confirmed the same. Regarding the other medicine neither of the laboratories found DNA of any human origin. The analysis reports have been sent to the State Government of Uttaranchal for further investigation and appropriate action under the law.

Marketing of ayurveda

658. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people all over the world show interest in alternative medicines especially in ayurveda;

(b) whether the market for ayurveda is largely untapped; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the presence of ayurveda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information of Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics India's export of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy Medicines, crude plants and plant extracts was approximately Rs. 1595 crore in 2004-2005. With the incresing importance of traditional and alternative medicine in health care, the safety and efficacy as well as quality control of traditional medicine have become important concerns. These concerns are being addressed by regulatory and research & development measures undertaken by the Department of AYUSH. The Department AYUSH has also undertaken information, education and communication activities *e.g.* organization of Arogya exhibition at Delhi and other places in India, participation in international exhibitions and fairs relating to traditional medicine and deputation of experts for participation in international seminars. The Government is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to development of AYUSH educational institutions, hospital & dispensaries and drug quality control.

GDP spending on health

659. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector is spending more in health care in India than Government;

(b) if so, the details including percentage of private and Government spending on health care for the last three years, State-wise, years-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the details of the share of GDP utilized for public health by various countries as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are enclosed at Statement (See below). The State-wise, category-wise figures are not maintained by the Government.